1s Drew G-8 (1862-1872) 1875 AVI Kashmir AVI

For the origin of these two hollows I have no theory to put forward; they are rock-basins, the rock being either a soft sandstone or sandstone with clay interstratified. I do not know their depth, but do not think it great; there seem to be springs of water in the lakes themselves; they deserve a more careful examination than I made of them.

WEST OF THE CHINAB.

We will now look at a few places to the west of the Chinab river, in the Muhammadan country.

Akhnúr, which is the first town, will most naturally come into the next chapter, as it lies on the road there to be described.

Bhimbar, 40 miles farther west, is a rather flourishing town. The Rajas of Bhimbar had their castle here; some of it still stands; it was a collection of buildings with loop-holed walls, making an enclosure 400 or 500 feet long and less than half that in width.

Placed, as this town is, at the beginning of the hills, it is the starting point in the mountain journey between the plains and Kashmir by the old royal road. When the Mughal Emperors of Delhi used almost yearly to visit Kashmir they commonly followed this route by Bhimbar and the Pir Panjál, and at this day English travellers use it as much as or more than any other.

Here, and at almost every stage on to Sirinagar, are remains of *saráis*, or rest-houses, built for the royal camp.

At Bhimbar there was a greater variety and extent of accommodation provided than at most of the stages, for here the camp used to concentrate, and hence proceed by detachments along the difficult hill-road, where means of carriage were and are limited. First, in the higher part of the town of Bhimbar, there is a *saráe* built of brick and sandstone, a square of about 300 feet. On each of the four sides are seventeen double cells or rooms with dome roofs, the inner room 10 feet square, the outer one 10 by 6; the height of these rooms is 10 feet at the upper end of the building; those opposite, which are built on lower ground, are made some feet higher, so that the wall is kept of one level. The outside wall

1; Drew G-8 (1862-1878) 1875 AVi Kashmir AVi

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344
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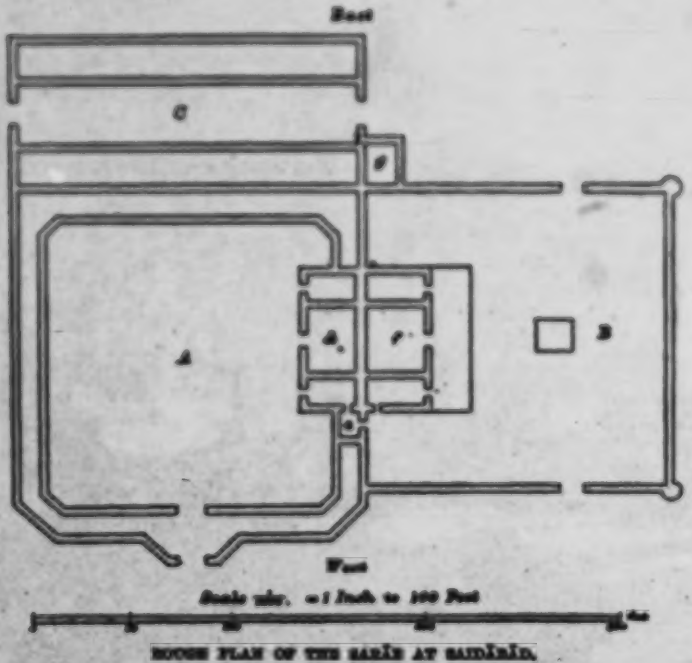
is carried above the roofs and forms a parapet. In the middle of the quadrangle is a chabūtra, or raised masonry platform; close outside the gate are the ruins of a mosque.

I do not think that this sarāe was intended for the king himself, for there are no rooms larger than the rest. Down in the plain, where the present Travellers' Bungalow is, are remains of what I have little doubt was his own halting-place. There was a square enclosure (traceable by a few remnants of the wall); in the centre of one side of it was a suite of rooms raised above the level of the ground, with a terrace in front; there were other buildings in the middle of the two next sides of the square; in the centre was a chabūtra or platform: close at hand was a *hammām*, a small building in three compartments, with an opening in the roof of each, made for the escape of the steam of the hot bath. These I believe to have been the royal quarters.



GROUND PLAN OF THE SARĀE AT SAIDĀBĀD.

The next stage on the Kashmir road is *Saidābād*, near the village of Samāni. Here is the finest example of all the royal

Is Drew G-8 (1862-1872) 1875 AVI Kashmir AV1

485 sarâes; a rough plan of it is annexed. It has three divisions: the
344 great court, A, is entered by the chief gateway; on all sides of this
361 quadrangle are the small arched or vaulted rooms, and, besides, in the middle of the south side is a set of three larger rooms on a higher level, marked *d*. These are now unroofed; I think there had been an upper story above them: they were doubtless the king's rooms. From these a small passage, *e*, leads to a corresponding set of rooms, *f*, which, with a terrace in front of them, look on to the second courtyard, B. This must have been the zanâna, or the ladies' apartments, and their private garden; this quadrangle has no cells round it; the wall is plastered smooth inside. A third courtyard, C, not communicating with the others, has along each side of it a row of double cells. *g* marks the position of a small mosque.

The sarâe is massively built, and the vaulting has stood well. The third court is still used by travellers, but the two larger ones are empty, and the ground has been brought under the plough.

A quarter of a mile off are the ruins of another, rather smaller, sarâe, where the present Travellers' Bungalow stands. The plan of it, though somewhat different, agrees with that of the rest in having two courts, one with cells around, the other with but a few rooms on one side.

The next stage towards Kashmir is *Nowshahra*, a town which is the administrative head-quarters of a district; here is a large old sarâe, with inner court.

485 Next comes *Changas*. This place I have never myself been to.
361 I am told that it possesses one of the finest of the sarâes in the whole of the route.

Râjâori, or *Râmpûr*, is the next stage. This will be more spoken of in the next chapter, since the route from Jummoo, there to be described, joins the one from Bhimbar at this spot; but in order to keep together the mention of all the royal sarâes along the line, we will now enumerate those which exist on to Kashmir, even though this leads us beyond the Outer Hill area.

At Râjâori the halting-place of the Delhi Emperor seems to have been the garden on the left bank of the stream. This is a

3r Imperial Gazetteer G-3 (1899-05) 1909 AV1 Kashmir AV1

late Mahārājā Ranbīr Singh, but now it is merely the residence of the ruling family and the officials of the State. The governor (Hākim-i-Ala) of the province with his revenue office, the Chief Judge, the Sub-Judge and two magistrates of the first class, the Wazīr-i-Wazārat of the Jammu district, the Superintendent of police, Jammu province, the chief medical officer, and the heads of various departments all live in Jammu, together with the staff of their several offices. A large hall called the Ajaibghar was erected by the late Mahārājā for the accommodation of the present King-Emperor, when he visited Jammu as Prince of Wales in the year 1875. The Mandi Mubārak palaces and the palace of Rājā Sir Amar Singh, situated on the Rāmnagar hill, towards the north of the town, are the chief attractions. The Central jail has a daily average of 268 prisoners, and costs about Rs. 20,000 per annum. The State high school is located in a large building, and is doing fairly efficient work. It contains about 800 pupils. A college to be named after the Prince of Wales is shortly to be opened. A State hospital is maintained, costing annually Rs. 14,800. Great improvements have been made in the drainage system of the town, which is managed by a municipal committee, and more improvements in this respect are under contemplation.

Kathua.—An overgrown village in the Jasrota district, Jammu province, Kashmīr, situated in 32° 22′ N. and 75° 32′ E., on the right bank of the Rāvi and between it and the Ujh river. Population (1901), 5,801. Kathua possesses no points of interest. The buildings are mean and dilapidated, and the place has no past and no future. The climate is unhealthy, and the water-supply scanty and bad.

Mirpur.—Town in the Bhimber district, Jammu province, Kashmīr, situated in 33° 11′ N. and 73° 49′ E., at an elevation of 1,236 feet above sea-level. It lies 22 miles north of the British cantonment of Jhelum, and is said to have been founded about 200 years ago by the Gakhars, Mīrān Khān and Sultān Fateh Khān. It is situated on high ground on the edge of the Kareli Kas, from which drinking-water is easily procured. There are several rather picturesque temples, the chief being the Sarkāri Mandir, built by Mahārājā Gulāb Singh, the Raghunāthji, and the temple of Dīwān Amar Nāth. The town contains 550 shops, forming a long bazar running east and west. Apart from the shop-keeping class, Brāhmans and Sikhs, of whom many are settled in Mīrpur, the inhabitants are mostly of the artisan or menial classes. There is a flourishing